

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application are requested. Claims 1-8 and 14-16 have been allowed. Claim 17 has been amended to include the language from claim 20. Claim 20 is cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-8 and 14-19 are pending.

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchiyama et al. in view of Fukuda et al (US 5,156,070) and further in view of Sato et al. (US 4,360,224).

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being patentable over Fukuda et al. in view of Peterson (US 5,364,114).

Claim 17 has been amended to include the language from claim 20, which was indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. As a result, claim 17 and dependent claims 18 and 19 should be in allowable form.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1-8 and 14-16 are allowed.

In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



Dated: June 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902-0902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
(612) 455-3800

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Curtis B. Hamre'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165  
CBH/jal/lad